Misuse of Legal Protection by Private Booking Agencies

130. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh Government have brought to the notice of Government the misuse of legal protection by the private booking agencies given under the provision of the Railway Act; resulting in colossal loss of revenue to the State Exchequer on account of massive evasion of sales tax by the traders who transport their goods through the railways; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government of Uttar Pradesh have written to the Ministry of Railways alleging evasion of sales tax by traders on consignments moved by rail through City Booking Agencies. Instructions have been issued to the City Booking Agencies to ensure that names and addresses of the consignors and consignees and full particulars of the consignment are properly filled in the forwarding notes. They have also been directed to extend full cooperation to the authorised sales tax officials to collect information from relevant railway records.

Prime Minister talks with Chinese Government

131. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the issues discussed with the Chinese Government during the recent visit of Prime Minister to that country, stating the outcome thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that three agreements were signed during this visit;

(c) if so, what are the main features of these agreements and what would be the impact on Indo-China political and diplomatic relations, particularly on Indian initiative in this regard;

(d) what follow up action has been taken by Government for normalisation of relations between the two countries; and

(e) on what basis and by when Indo-China border dispute is likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI). (a) to (e) Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, made an official goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China from 19th-23rd December, 1988 at the invitation of Premier Li Peng of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

2. During his talks and meetings with the Chinese leaders, Prime Minister had a wide-ranging exchange of views and ideas on bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest. These discussions enhanced mutual understanding. Both sides agreed to restore, improve and develop good neighbourly and friendly relations between India and China on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

3. Earnest and in-depth discussions were held on the boundary question and it was agreed to settle this question through peaceful and friendly consultations.

4. During the visit, the two Governments signed the Agreement on Cooperation in the field on Science and Technology, the Agreement relating to Civil Air Transport and the Executive Programme for the years 1988, 1989 and 1990 under the Agreement for Cultural Cooperation.